

SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions; published daily when the Senate is in session.

6/9/05

GRANHOLM BOND PROPOSAL

SB 533 (Garcia)

SB 533 is the Republican response to the Governor's \$2 billion "Jobs For Michigan" bond proposal. As currently written, SB 533 would allow for a bond fund of \$1 billion over 10 years. It would also create the Strategic Economic Investment Bond Fund. The money then would be used to encourage economic growth in four emerging sectors of the economy, life sciences, advanced automotive manufacturing, alternative energy and homeland security.

Support (for the Governor's \$2 billion proposal): Department of Labor and Economic Growth, MEDC, Department of Treasury, Mich-Bio, Wayne State University, Western Michigan University, University of Michigan, Van Andel Institute, Michigan Tech University, Oakland County Executive, Michigan State University, Michigan Environmental Council, NextEnergy.

Oppose: Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

6/8:

- Committee 1 (S-4) was defeated. (6/8)
- *Garcia 2 (S-5) was adopted.*
- EMERSON 2A-F were withdrawn.
- SB 533 was moved to 3rd Reading.

6/9:

- Garcia/Sikkema/EMERSON 1 (5 amends) was adopted [no RC].
- Garcia/Sikkema/EMERSON 2 (13 amends) was adopted [no RC].
- PRUSI 3 (1 amend) was defeated [no RC]. This would have raised the bonding total to \$2 billion.
- Sikkema 4 (3 amends) was adopted [no RC]. Corporations which contribute for or against the ballot initiative cannot receive loans for three years.
- THOMAS 5 (1 amend) was withdrawn. See Thomas 7.
- PRUSI 6 (1 amend) was defeated [no RC]. This would have broken the tie-bar to SB 358-59 which deal with life science bills just passed by the Senate.
- THOMAS 7 (1 amend) was defeated [RC 199: 15 yes, 22 no (gop)]. This would have given "consideration" in the loan application process to minority and female-owned businesses, and businesses which represent underserved communities.
- SB 533 passed [RC 200: 31 yes, 7 no (gop)].

SJR C (JACOBS)

If approved by the voters in the November 2005 election, SJR C would amend the state constitution to allow the state to issue up to \$1 billion in bonds without the explicit approval of the voters for the purposes of economic development in high-tech and competitive edge technologies. The funds would be spent as provided by law in SB 533.

6/8:

- Committee 1 (S-6) was defeated. (6/8)
- *Garcia 2 (S-7) was adopted.*
- EMERSON 2A (7 amends) was withdrawn.
- SJR C was moved to 3rd Reading.

6/9:

- Van Woerkom 1 (1 amend) was withdrawn. See Van Woerkom 5.
- PRUSI 2 (1 amend) was defeated [no RC]. This would have raised the bonding total to \$2 billion.
- Garcia/Sikkema/EMERSON 4 (7 amends) was adopted [no RC].
- Van Woerkom 5 (1 amend) was adopted [RC 201: 38 yes, 0 no]. The Investment Board would not be able to levy or increase taxes.
- SJR C was adopted [RC 202: 32 yes, 6 no (gop)]. Two-thirds support was needed for passage.

FINAL PASSAGE

SB 211 (Birkholz)

SB 212 (Van Woerkom)

SB 213 (Stamas)

SB 214 (BRATER)

SB 215 (Gilbert)

SB 216 (Patterson)

SB 217 (Allen)

SB 507 (Birkholz)

SBs 211-17 and SB 507 would provide a comprehensive strategy focused on enforcement, public education, control, and prevention of the spread of harmful fish, plants, and insects into the Great Lakes and our in-land lakes and streams.

SB 211 would define "prohibited aquatic plant species", "prohibited insect species", "prohibited fish species", and "restricted aquatic plant species."

- Committee 1 (S-1) was defeated. (6/8)
- *Birkholz 2 (S-2) was adopted.*
- SB 211 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 211 passed [RC 203: 38 yes, 0 no]. (6/9)

<u>SB 212</u> would prohibit a person from possessing a prohibited or restricted species, subject to certain exceptions, or introducing a prohibited or restricted species.

- Committee 1 (S-3) was adopted. (6/8)
- SB 212 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 212 passed [RC 204: 37 yes, 0 no]. (6/9)

<u>SB 213</u> would prohibit a person from knowingly introducing a prohibited, restricted, genetically engineered or nonnative fish, insect, or aquatic plant.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was defeated. (6/8)
- Birkholz 2 (S-2) was adopted.
- SB 213 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 213 passed [RC 205: 37 yes, 0 no]. (6/9)

<u>SB 214</u> would revise the penalties for possession of prohibited or restricted species, and for failing to report the presence of a prohibited species to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), or the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

- Committee 1 (S-1) was defeated. (6/8)
- Birkholz 2 (S-3) was adopted.
- SB 214 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 214 passed [RC 206: 37 yes, 0 no]. (6/9)

<u>SB 215</u> would create the Invasive Species Fund within the State Treasury. The bill also would require the DNR to post on its website the list of prohibited and restricted species, and the penalties for violating these laws.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was defeated. (6/8)
- Birkholz 2 (S-3) was adopted.
- SB 215 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 215 passed [RC 207: 37 yes, 0 no]. (6/9)

<u>SB 216</u> would create the Nonnative Species Advisory Council, which would consist of four members appointed by the Senate Majority Leader and three members appointed by the Speaker of the House. The members first appointed to the Council would have to be appointed within 60 days after the bill's effective date.

- Committee 1 (S-2) was adopted. (6/8)
- SB 216 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 216 passed [RC 208: 37 yes, 0 no]. (6/9)

<u>SB 217</u> would establish criteria for identifying water bodies infested by prohibited species, and monitor and promote efforts to rescind the exemption for ballast water discharges.

- *Committee 1 (S-1) was defeated. (6/8)*
- Birkholz 2 (S-5) was adopted.
- SB 217 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 217 passed [RC 209: 37 yes, 0 no]. (6/9)

<u>SB 507</u> would include the possession or release of a genetically engineered, nonnative, or prohibited organism in the sentencing guidelines.

- *Birkholz 1 (S-1) was withdrawn. (6/8)*
- Birkholz 2 (S-2) was adopted.
- SB 507 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 507 passed [RC 210: 37 yes, 0 no]. (6/9)

SB 335 (JACOBS)

SB 335 would allow a child to possess and use a metered dose or dry powder inhaler, or an epinephrine auto-injector or inhaler at a children's camp. This will help protect children with severe allergies.

- Committee 1 (S-2) was adopted. (6/8)
- SB 335 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 335 passed [RC 221: 36 yes, 0 no]. (6/9)

SB 380 (George)

SB 380 would allow physician assistants to directly refer patients for physical therapy. Physician assistants have much more training and education now than when these regulations were put in place. It frees up the physician and allows the patient quicker access to physical therapy. Currently, a physical therapist can engage in the actual treatment of an individual only if prescribed by an individual holding a license other than a subfield license. Those include dentists, medical doctors, osteopaths and podiatrists.

Support: MI Physical Therapists Assn., Nurse Practitioners Assn., DCH.

- SB 380 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments. (6/8)
- SB 380 passed [RC 214: 36 yes, 0 no]. (6/9)

SB 446-47 (JACOBS)

SB 446 would implement a 6% quality assurance assessment fee on any specialty prepaid health plan that has a managed care contract with the DCH. A specialty prepaid health plan is a managed care entity that provides Medicaid covered specialty services (mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services) under a contract with the state and on the basis of prepaid capitation fee- to beneficiaries who need such care.

The 6% tax rate will generate \$89 million in tax revenue. \$35 million of the state restricted tax revenue will be used to offset general fund revenues in the Medicaid mental health and Medicaid substance abuse services appropriations. The remaining \$54 million will be used to earn \$70 million in federal Medicaid revenues. The result will be an additional \$124 million in revenue to fund a rate increase for community mental health and substance abuse providers.

- SB 446 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments. (6/8)
- SB 446 passed [RC 215: 36 yes, 0 no]. (6/9)

<u>SB 447</u> would require that specialty prepaid health plans be considered Medicaid managed care organizations. This would make it clear that the specialty prepaid health plans would be eligible for a quality assurance assessment program.

- SB 447 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments. (6/8)
- SB 447 passed [RC 216: 36 yes, 0 no]. (6/9)

SB 482 (Allen)

SB 482 would allow tax increment funds to be used for the financing of "eligible activities." Under the act eligible activities includes as baseline environmental assessment activities; due care activities; and additional response activities.

- *Allen 1 (S-1) was adopted. (6/8)*
- SB 482 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 482 passed [RC 211: 36 yes, 0 no]. (6/9)

SB 551 (Patterson)

SB 551 would eliminate a July 1, 2005, sunset on the Public Service Commission's authority to promulgate rules.

- SB 551 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments. (6/8)
- SB 551 passed [RC 213: 36 yes, 0 no]. (6/9)

HB 4447 (Robertson)

HB 4447 would make numerous, but generally technical, changes to the Michigan Boxing Act. Supporters of the bill believe that the proposed revisions would not change concepts in the act, but merely how these concepts would work. In particular, the Department of Labor and Economic Growth has identified two provisions that have proven to be unworkable.

- HB 4447 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments. (6/8)
- HB 4447 passed with IE [RC 212: 36 yes, 0 no]. (6/9)

HB 4560 (Moore) HB 4562 (Newell) HB 4567 (Booher) HB 4613 (Caul)

Emerald Ash Borer Package

HBs 4560, 4562, and 4567 would establish penalties related to violating quarantines and provisions related to plant infestations and plant diseases. HB 4613 would provide the Department of Agriculture with the authority to issue state civil infractions.

HB 4560:

- Van Woerkom 1 (S-1) was adopted. (6/8)
- HB 4560 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- HB 4560 passed with IE [RC 217: 36 yes, 0 no]. (6/9)

HB 4562:

- Van Woerkom 1 (S-1) was adopted. (6/8)
- HB 4562 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- HB 4562 passed with IE [RC 218: 36 yes, 0 no]. (6/9)

HB 4567:

- Van Woerkom 1 (S-1) was adopted. (6/8)
- HB 4567 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- HB 4567 passed with IE [RC 219: 36 yes, 0 no]. (6/9)

HB 4613:

- HB 4613 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments. (6/8)
- HB 4613 passed with IE [RC 220: 36 yes, 0 no]. (6/9)

HB 4774 (KOLB)

HB 4774 would extend the sunset for the \$750 Baseline Environmental Assessment fee from June 5, 2005 to June 5, 2007. The bill is necessary to ensure the continuation of the baseline environmental assessment program. Liability for the clean-up of a contaminated site was imposed irrespective of the fault of any person who owned or operated property during or at any time after the release of a hazardous substance. However, under current law, owners and potential buyers of contaminated property may now obtain protection against liability for clean-up by conducting a baseline environmental assessment on the contaminated site, provided they meet certain other criteria. These changes, largely made in 1995, have served as an important tool aimed at cleaning up contaminated lands and returning that land to a productive use.

Support: DEQ, MEC.

- HB 4774 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.
- HB 4774 passed with IE [RC 222: 34 yes, 0 no].

THIRD READING

SB 251 (Brown) SB 538 (Brown)

<u>SB 251</u> would provide a tax exemption for methane digesters and other thermal decomposing systems used in agricultural operations.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was defeated.
- Brown 2 (S-2) was adopted.
- SB 251 was moved to 3rd Reading.

<u>SB 538</u> would allow an eligible farmer to receive a loan from the Small Business Pollution Prevention loan for a pollution prevention project involving the use of agricultural biomass by an energy production system.

- Brown 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- SB 538 was moved to 3rd Reading.

SB 353 (Gilbert)

SB 353 would provide that, in operating and administering the community development block grant program, to the extent allowed by law, the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) would have to require that at least 55% of the community block grant program funds be awarded for projects located in rural areas (counties with a population of 90,000 or less). Currently, the state allocates 55% of the block grants to rural areas.

- Committee 1 (S-2) was adopted.
- SB 353 was moved to 3rd Reading.